

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 Sept 2019 Ephesians 1:1-14..... Rejoice
- 2) 08 Sept Ephesians 1:15-23..... Remembered
- 3) 15 Sept Ephesians 2:1-10..... Resurrected
- 4) 22 Sept Ephesians 2:11-22..... Reconciled
- 5) 29 Sept Ephesians 3:1-13..... Revealed
- 6) 06 Oct Ephesians 3:14-21..... Residence
- 7) 13 Oct..... Ephesians 4:1-10..... **Walking Together**
- 8) 20 Oct Ephesians 4:11-16..... Walking Forward
- 9) 27 Oct Ephesians 4:17-32..... Walking Differently
- 10) 03 Nov Ephesians 5:1-14..... Walking in Love
- 11) 10 Nov Ephesians 5:15-21..... Walking Wisely
- 12) 17 Nov Ephesians 5:22-6:4..... Walking as Family
- 13) 24 Nov Ephesians 6:5-20..... Walking to Battle

INTRODUCTION

- How should we walk in the manner we are called in?
- ...and should we strive for unity at all costs?

Passage	Comments
Eph 4:1-2	<p>Walk Worthy of Our Calling (in other words, What Would Jesus Do, AND HOW Would He Do It?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be humble (no arrogance) • Be gentle (not a bull in a china shop) • Be patient (slow down and wait for others) • Be tolerant (allow others to make mistakes) • Be loving (treat people like your grandkids – they can do no wrong to you, & others will know us by our love) • Be diligent (laziness/sloppiness are not in our mind) • UNLESS...there is sin in the camp, then tough love may be needed to protect the sheep, fix a severe problem, & to seek unity, reconciliation, & restoration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Paul told the Corinthians to cast out the culprit who was sleeping with his stepmother 1Cor 5:1-2 ♦ Paul had to severely admonish Peter Gal 2:11 ♦ Paul called the Galatians foolish Gal 3:1 ♦ Paul called Corinthians a bunch of babies .. 1Cor 3:1 ♦ James called his readers adulteresses Jms 4:4 ♦ Even Jesus had to crack a whip, turn over a few tables, & chase people out of church ... John 2:14-15 • BUT for the most part, when dealing with brothers & sisters in the Lord with all of our warts & blemishes, we need to exercise loving humility, gentleness, patience, tolerance, & other fruits of the Spirit Gal 5:22-23
4:3	<p>Protect the Unity of the Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember, we are family; no matter what, we need to stick together and exercise the qualities noted above • When fellowship is broken between family members, who should be the first to seek reconciliation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Cliché: “He that is in the Know is the First to Go” ♦ BUT, there are exceptions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scripture is clear we need to avoid contentious, foolish, angry, and wicked or prodigal people 2. Discernment is needed • AND, unity at all cost is not biblical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We do not compromise with evil intent ♦ Higher priority exists to protect the sheep from harm and from false teachings • Consider this. Solomon wanted peace for Israel, so he married Pharaoh's daughter – a non-believer. That seemingly started his downhill slide. Deut 17:17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Does God want married people or holy people? ♦ Does God want obedience or sacrifice? • How do you restore unity in a church or family? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ <input type="checkbox"/> Lots of prayer & fasting? <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes you can't

Passage	Comments
4:4-6	<p>Singleness of God's Family. We have...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One body – one family, one race, one blood • One Spirit – singleness of purpose – to serve • One Hope – one goal → to win! • One Lord – one allegiance, not many • One Faith – there is only one way to win • One Baptism – we have a common experience • One God – He is the glue who holds us together
4:7-8	<p>...BUT! – We Are Not Cookie-Cutter Christians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are designed w/ uniqueness and individuality • We are gifted differently – not based on our capabilities or good looks, but on God's desires • How should we establish and maintain UNITY with such DIVERSITY amongst us? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We need to harness this unique power and let people exercise their gifts Prov 22:6 ♦ AND don't be afraid of failures ♦ Examples: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some may have a heart to work with unwed mothers or ministry for fostering/adoption 2. Other opportunities?
4:9-10	<p>He who descended and ascended is Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some take this literally that Christ descended to the physical lowest parts of the Earth where Hades (grk) or Sheol (Hebrew) is presumed to be <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ ...and while in Hades, Christ preached to the prisoners in prison, then led “captivity captive” – He took the paradise portion of Hades to Heaven Ps 68:18; Lk 16:23; Jn 3:13; 1Pet 3:19 • Others take this descending/ascending to be metaphorical of Christ leaving the splendor He had in Heaven to be totally humiliated on Earth, then ascending back to His glorious position • Eventually, Hades will be thrown in the permanent Lake of Fire (Rev 20:14) or Gehenna, along with Satan (Rev 20:10) & others doomed for Hell (Rev 20:15)

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Since Christ made us the way we are, we should not complain or grumble since we are but clay in the Potter's hand
- He gifted us to function in unique ways – so use your gifts

NEXT WEEK: Ephesians 4:11-16. Apostles and prophets, evangelists and pastors/teachers are key to training us to win the lost, and maturing all into the spitting image of God's Son, Jesus

SYMPHONY

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus,
 – ROMANS 15:5 NIV